

Story of Saint GEGL

For reference [GEGL](#) is GIMP's engine that powers all the non-destructive (live preview) filters in GIMP and [the cartaphilus](#) is a Christian mythos story about a Jew that wandered the earth for 1000s of years after being cursed by Jesus to wander the earth until Jesus returned. The copy pasta is meant to provide lore behind GIMP plugins of LinuxBeaver found here

<https://github.com/LinuxBeaver>

Back in the very early 2000s I was at a GIMP conference where GIMP devs were discussing how to improve GIMP and make it fair against Adobe Photoshop at the time. I myself was there because I was a business owner who really wanted to save money from paying 1000 USD for Photoshop for each one of my employees. I wanted them to switch to Linux and GIMP but the problem was at the time GIMP was total ass and unusable. But I still had hope back in the early 2000s that GIMP would improve. At the GIMP conference I lost my patience when I found out they weren't interested in adding new features like non-destructive editing and had more interest in technical nerd shit that didn't benefit the end user. To re-illiterate it seems the GIMP devs of that time were more interested in back end features not stuff the end user could appreciate. I was fed up so I had a chance to get the audiences attention at the GIMP conference and what I said was far from kind.

I grabbed the microphone and said ahem...

GIMP IS TOTAL DOGSHIT I TRIED TO GIVE IT A CHANCE I REALLY BUT THE SOFTWARE SUCKS. I'D RATHER DRINK GORILLA ASS JUICE THEN BE TORMENTED BY GIMP ANY LONGER BECAUSE THIS SOFTWARE SUCKS WORSE THEN THAT. THE GIMP DEVS ARE TOTAL FUCKING NERDS WHO CARE MORE ABOUT BACK END TECHNICAL FEATURES THEN USABILITY. I WANTED MY COMPANY TO SWITCH TO GIMP TO SAVE MONEY FROM ADOBE. MY WORKERS WANTED TO SWITCH TO GIMP TOO - BUT IT DIDN'T PAY OFF. FUCK THIS UGLY GOD FORSAKEN SHITWARE THAT CAN'T EVEN DRAW A MOTHER FUCKING CIRCLE

The crowd was speechless but then a bearded man with long hair and a parrot humping his arm (spoiler richard stallman) was there and he looked at me with cold unforgiving eyes. Then spoke: "Mark my words - You will not leave your bedroom and will spend countless hours glued to your computer screen until GIMP no longer sucks gorilla ass juice"

Richard then walked out of the room and I was kicked out by the GIMP venue. I thought it was just the rantings of a crazy man and went home try GIMP one last time to figure out if I could find techniques that made it more usable. That night probably in 2002 I spent several hours intensely studying how to better remove backgrounds in GIMP. Then it started getting really late and I decided to get some shut eye as I had important things to do as a employer tomorrow. The next day I realized I could not open my bedroom door and I have nothing in my bedroom but a computer with GNU/Linux and a bed. I turned around again and I realized my bedroom door, doorknob and window were gone. Just four walls in a room. I quickly realized that lunatic Stallman placed a curse on me for trashing GIMP. I was going to be locked in my bedroom for years until GIMP no longer "sucked gorilla ass juice". So much /g/ lurking went on during that time that I can't mention it but lets just say 2002 to 2021 I was agonized watching the years pass, and GIMP still sucking gorilla ass juice... every day locked in my prison room with no contact with humans other then linux corners of the internet and /g/ when it came into existence in the late 2000s (first as guru) thats how long I have been here. Lastly, I should also mention that for some strange reason I had no desire to eat or drink or use the bathroom

The point is I was miserable from 2002 to 2021 in my GNU/prison until I made a discovery in GIMP. In mid 2021 after 19 years in my bed room with nothing but a Linux computer and GIMP installed I found out GIMP had a secret filter called GEGL Graph (Generic>GEGL Graph) that allowed users to write syntax code non-destructively. In a nutshell GEGL Graph allowed GIMP users to call GIMP's GEGL engine directly just like nodes in Blender but represented as text instead of visual nodes and the user gets a live preview of what they are doing.

For example if you open GIMP's gegl graph and input

```
color-overlay value=#31ff00
gaussian-blur std-dev-x=4 std-dev-y=4
id=1 gimp:layer-mode layer-mode=grain-merge aux=[ ref=1 emboss depth=23 ]
opacity value=3
```

You get this a bevel bump text style effect. You chained four GIMP operations non-destructively and one GIMP operation is inside a blend mode called grain merge. This was a huge breakthrough in GIMP - a game changer. From 2021 to early 2022 I wrote GEGL syntax for GIMP non stop to pass the time. I had been in my bedroom for 19 years straight and have spent my years shitposting on /g/ before discovering GEGL syntax in GIMP. It felt like 2021 to 2022 were more valuable years for GIMP's progress then any other moment in human history. However something even better was going to happen then me just writing GEGL syntax for GIMP - in mid 2022 I was looking at the source code

of GEGL [drop shadow](#) and realized I actually understood what was going on despite not knowing how to program in .c. GEGL had a template area and a node area where users could easily make new GIMP filters. From mid 2022 till present I went on a quest making Gimp plugins - said Gimp plugins did advance effects and text styling. While making the plugins for GIMP I felt free and way better then I did the first 19 years. Making GIMP plugins felt like saving the world from Adobe's evil CEO and Klaus Schwab's own nothing be happy SaaS agenda. Fast forward to early 2024 some of my plugins got accepted into GIMP 2.99.19 officially!!!. Said plugins are a text styling engine and because of the work of another GIMP Developer named CMYK Student GIMP can use my GEGL plugins and any native GEGL filter in GIMP non-destructively. This is a sign that GIMP no longer sucks gorilla ass juice. Then in March 2024 after my text styling engine was officially accepted into GIMP something amazing happened. For the first time since 2002 in 22 years I was able to go outside my bedroom as the door reappeared. I opened the door and found myself at the FSF. For the first time in 22 years I was some where other then my bedroom and I met Richard Stallman and he gave me a GEGL plushy and said well done my child you have passed the test. GIMP no longer sucks gorilla ass juice - you have made GIMP quality software - you have been freed. He then congratulated me and everyone at the FSF including GIMP's team was happy that I made GIMP quality software.

Now I am back in the real world after 22 years in a digital prison. I have the desire to eat, crap and sleep again. I learned my lesson. GIMP is quality software.

